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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH THE HOST COUNTRY

Report of the Sixth Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Pascaline BOUM (Cameroon)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country" was included in the provisional agenda of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly pursuant to Assembly resolution 50/49 of 11 December 1995.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1996, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the Sixth Committee.

3. The Sixth Committee considered the item at its 47th and 48th meetings, on 26 and 27 November 1996. The summary records of those meetings contain the views of the representatives who spoke during the Committee's consideration of the item (A/C.6/51/SR.47 and 48).

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country;[1]

(b) Letter dated 12 April 1996 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/51/115);

[1] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 26 (A/51/26).

(c) Letter dated 1 May 1996 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/51/126).

5. At the 47th meeting, on 26 November, the report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country was introduced by its Chairman.

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.6/51/L.14

6. At the 47th meeting, on 26 November, the representative of Cyprus, on behalf of Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus and Spain, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country" (A/C.6/51/L.14).

7. At its 48th meeting, on 27 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.6/51/L.14 without a vote (see para. 8).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE

8. The Sixth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country,[2]

Recalling Article 105 of the Charter of the United Nations, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations,[3] and the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations,[4] and the responsibilities of the host country,

Recognizing that effective measures should continue to be taken by the competent authorities of the host country, in particular to prevent any acts violating the security of missions and the safety of their personnel,

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[2] Ibid.

[3] Resolution 22 A (I).

[4] See resolution 169 (II).

Noting the spirit of cooperation and mutual understanding that has guided the deliberations of the Committee on issues affecting the United Nations community and the host country,

Welcoming the increased interest shown by Member States in participating in the work of the Committee,

1. Endorses the recommendations and conclusions of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country contained in paragraph 65 of its report;[2]

2. Considers that the maintenance of appropriate conditions for the normal work of the delegations and the missions accredited to the United Nations is in the interests of the United Nations and all Member States, and requests the host country to continue to take all measures necessary to prevent any interference with the functioning of missions;

3. Expresses its appreciation for the efforts made by the host country, and hopes that the concerns raised at the meetings of the Committee will continue to be resolved in a spirit of cooperation and in accordance with international law;

4. Notes with appreciation the efforts of the Committee which have contributed to a decrease in the amount of diplomatic indebtedness, stresses that existing indebtedness continues to be a matter of significant concern to the United Nations and that non-payment of just debts tarnishes the image of the Organization itself, and reaffirms that non-compliance with contractual obligations cannot be condoned or justified;

5. Welcomes the efforts of the Committee aimed at identifying affordable health care programmes for the diplomatic community;

6. Once again urges the host country to consider lifting travel controls with regard to certain missions and to staff members of the Secretariat of certain nationalities, and in this regard notes the positions of the affected States, the Secretary-General and the host country;

7. Notes with satisfaction the steps taken by the host country at John F. Kennedy International Airport with regard to special passages for members of the United Nations community and urges the host country to continue to take appropriate action in this regard to ensure application of those procedures;

8. Calls upon the host country to review measures and procedures relating to the parking of diplomatic vehicles, with a view to responding to the growing needs of the diplomatic community, and to consult with the Committee on these issues;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to remain actively engaged in all aspects of the relations of the United Nations with the host country;

10. Requests the Committee to continue its work, in conformity with General Assembly resolution 2819 (XXVI) of 15 December 1971;

11. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country".